

KNIGHT EXTRA

SPECIAL FRONT PAGE. The Lithuanian Numismatic Association, Frank Passic, EDITOR. April-May, 1984

KARYS DEAD

Jonas K. Karys, distinguished Lithuanian numismatist, journalist, and economist, is dead at the age of 81. Karys died Monday, March 26, 1984 at Park City Hospital in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He had lived in exile in Bridgeport for 36 years, and was a retired employee of the Heppenstall Corporation there. He had been in failing health for several years.

Karys was born on March 4, 1903, in Skeriai, Trakai county, Lithuania. After serving as a volunteer in the Lithuanian army in 1919, he began writing articles for the press in 1921, and became interested in Lithuanian history and numismatics. For sixty years, Karys wrote articles for both Lithuanian and Lithuanian-American publications.

From 1930 to 1939 he worked with the Lithuanian Finance Ministry, while studying at the University of Kaunas. From 1936 until the start of World War II in 1939, he served as the director of the Lithuanian State Mint in Kaunas. Under his leadership, a new era in Lithuanian numismatic history was launched. The Kaunas mint was considered to be the successor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania mint, which had operated 270 years earlier.

While mint director, Karys was encouraged by his professors Vaclovas Biržiška and Vladas Jurgutis, to systematically study, and then write about Lithuanian numismatics through the ages. Accepting the challenge, Karys wrote the following major books on Lithuanian numismatics: Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai [Independent Lithuanian Money], 1953; Senovės Lietuvių Pinigai [Ancient Lithuanian Money], 1959; and Numizmatika [Lithuanian Numismatic Dictionary], 1970. His first two works were translated into English and published in serial form by the Lithuanian Numismatic Association, in 1979 and 1980-82, respectively. The latter work English translation is forthcoming.

From 1939 to 1944 Karys taught economics at the Higher Business School in Vilnius, and became the municipal Chief Inspector for the entire city, until he fled Lithuania in 1944, in advance of the occupying Soviets. From 1944 to 1948, he worked for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Rosenheim, Bavaria, representing Lithuanian Displaced Persons. From 1948 onwards, he resided in the U.S., and from 1954 to 1966 was editor of the numismatic section of the Lietuvių Enciklopedija, and contributed over 150 articles on the subject. He also was a contributor to the Encyclopedia Lituanica for many years.

The funeral was held Thursday, March 29 at the Charles Dougiello & Sons Funeral Home, 798 Park Ave. in Bridgeport, CT. 06604. Donations in memory of Mr. Karys may be sent to

(continued next page....)



JONAS K. KARYS, 1903-1984



the various Lithuanian organizations (we are suggesting the LNA, or the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture numismatic department) through the Dougiello Funeral Home.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Joana Reivytytis Karys, a sister in Lithuania, and several nieces and nephews.

RIGHT: 1963 photo of Jonas K. Karys in his Bridgeport, Ct. office. Karys continued to write Lithuanian numismatic articles even into the 1980's.



EDITORIAL, By Frank Passic, Albion, Michigan.

I never met the man. But I would have liked to. Only distance kept that meeting from taking place. I had begun my correspondence with Mr. Karys right from the very beginning when we started the LNA in 1978. I was always asking him questions on his expertise, and as a novice, I had much to learn.

As time progressed, he would more frequently refer me to his books and articles as his memory failed, but still his letters contained the flavor of distinguished authority which marked his numismatic career.

He was a charter member of the LNA and one of our biggest moral supporters. He graciously allowed us to translate his books into the English language and publish them here in The Knight. It is no secret that Karys' pioneer work in the field of Lithuanian numismatics formed and forms the basic groundwork for our continued studies in our hobby specialty. Without his works, we would be left to the opinions of Polish, Russian, and German numismatists, whose foreign eyes often distorted the true picture concerning Lithuanian numismatics; we would also have a harder time distinguishing between fact and fantasy concerning the numismatic writings of an eccentric Lithuanian doctor, which Karys frequently attacked in his writings.

His opinions were direct and to the point. He made no apologies as to how he felt about the errors of Polish and other numismatists. But he was a true Lithuanian national. He loved his country and his homeland, and that is why he wrote and studied, so that a portion of it might be preserved. As he stated in Nepriklausomas, pg. 9, "WHY DO I WRITE? So that it would not be forgotten!...I therefore call upon all Independent Lithuania's knowledgeable witnesses in the fields of the economy, politics, culture, administration and other branches and offshoots in

the free world to: take up the pen and write!"

And this editor did write, and learn. I continued to correspond with Karys, even three weeks before his death, when I received this letter dated March 4, 1984: "Alas, I have become such a decrepit old man, that I am unable to do any more effective work [he then mentions that he knows nothing about the "new" 500 and 1,000 litų notes we are featuring this issue]. With respect and the heartiest of good greetings. Jonas K. Karys."

Karys' death is a great loss to the numismatic and Lithuanian communities. But he prepared the way for us, and stated in Numismatika (p. 339) "...The field of Lithuanian numismatics, fallowed by ages, has been plowed up afresh! What has been left undone, or what still is to be done, I leave to younger hands, wishing them success..."

He wrote this editor numerous times, with words such as these: "I always read with pleasure your letters and articles. Continue to work, dear Frank, in your sphere with the same fire further. (9/3/80);" "My heartfelt congratulations to you and to all other youths, in full health and strength, Lithuanians, to labor intelligently for our beloved Fatherland's welfare, without those collaborators who naturally drop from the ranks, never to return... It was ever so, as it is, and will continue to be! (10/11/81)."

And so I accept the challenge, we accept the challenge in the LNA, to continue where Karys left off, to further the science of Lithuanian numismatics. Jonas K. Karys, we thank you for what you did and why you did it, and we will miss you.

EDITOR, The Knight.

Frank Passic
Frank Passic



THE

KNIGHT



VOL. VI No. 6 Issue #36. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR. April-May 1984

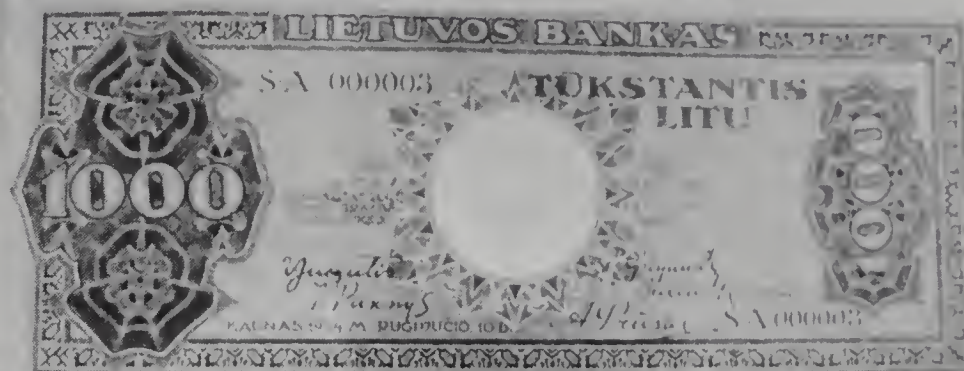
UNREPORTED LITHUANIAN BANKNOTES DISCOVERED!

By Frank Passic

Two previously unreported banknotes of the Bank of Lithuania have turned up in an underground collection in Soviet-occupied Lithuania, in denominations of 500 and 1,000 litų, dated Rugpjūčio (August) 10, 1924!!!! They were printed by the firm G. Hasse in Prague, Czechoslovakia, the same firm which printed Lithuania's 1922 "permanent" banknotes, dated Lapkr. (November) 16, 1922. Hence, these notes belong to the so-called "second issue," while the P-21 and P-22 500 and 1,000 litų circulation notes dated Gruodžio (December) 11, 1924 are according to the "third issue," that is, printed in England.

In 1924, the Bank of Lithuania decided to issue notes in denominations of 500 and 1,000 Litas', and commissioned artist Vilius Jomantas with the task of designing them. In late 1924, the G. Hasse printers prepared examples of the designs, and sent them to the bank for their final approval of colors, watermarks, security lines, etc. This had been the custom implemented with the 1922 notes. However, the bank was not satisfied, and instead decided to entertain bids from world banknote printing firms. In December 1924, the Bank of Lithuania awarded the contract to Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. of New Malden, England. With that action, there remained these low serial numbered samples printed by G. Hasse which were with the Bank of Lithuania. Until this time, their existence has been unknown.

It is interesting to note that they do not bear the words "Pavyzdys-bevertis" meaning Specimen--no value, although they are apparently complete in their design. Although at this time they are considered unique, the serial numbers indicate that other examples may exist.



ABOVE: 1,000 litų dated August 10, 1924, serial no. A 000003! Printed by G. Hasse in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The notes carry the signatures of Lietuvos Bankas president V. Jurgutis, and board members J. Paknys, P. Grajauskas, Julius Kaupas, and A. Prūsas. The date reflects the time banknotes were ordered, customary for Lithuanian notes. This would mean they were printed around September-November 1924.

1,000 Litų DESCRIPTION: Obverse: The text and design is printed in black, with red serial numbers. The design is similar to the released-into-circulation 500 Litų of December 11, 1924 (P-21). In the center is a reddish-orange crystal design. Within that is a circular watermark containing the very stylized initials, "LB," meaning "Lietuvos Bankas." The red serial number appears printed twice: upper left, and lower right. Notice the letter "S" for "Serija" is used, a positive clue it was printed by G. Hasse. The date, bottom left, reads, "KAUNAS 1924 m. RUGPJŪČIO, 10 D."

Continued on page 2...

REVERSE: The reverse is somewhat revolting, according to today's standards, and may have something to do with why the design was rejected. The central portion is green, with yellow on each of the ends. In the center is depicted a strong and sturdy oak & acorn limb, with the circular watermark dividing the design. However, on this intended stylized symbol of commerce, the "Mercury Fasces," Lithuanian-style, are perched two rather large villainous-looking serpents: poised to strike!

This was hardly a national and patriotic design to use on the country's most valuable and important banknote! Bank officials no doubt realized Jomantas' depiction was too graphic and was placed in too prominent a position to be acceptable.

The oval numeral "1,000" appears upper left. Under it are the ornate letters "LB," meaning Lietuvos Bankas. Below is the map-of-Lithuania emblem of Lietuvos Bankas which features a full map of the country, including the capital city Vilnius, which at that time was under Polish occupation (1920-39). The security warning clause appears at center bottom.

500 Litu description: The obverse is not available at this time and will be reported later. Reverse description: The design is brown, with light blue on each end. At first glance, the symmetric design resembles a tropical jungle scene from Africa or the islands! Upon close examination however, those are not "Lithuanian palm trees" (see photo above), but rather ornamented bundles of wheat! From each stream a roll of ribbon which rests on the bottom, characteristic of artist Jomantas' work. The numeral "500" appears in the center. To the left top is the stylized "LB" initials. Under that is the map emblem of Lietuvos Bankas. Below that is a triangle-shaped ornamentation with a "whirligig" in the center. The left quarter of the note is blank, except for the stylized "LB" lettering circular watermark in the center.

This author has noted that on both the 500 and 1,000, from what he can tell, Lithuania's two most important emblems: Vytis, and the



500 Litu reverse, by Vilnius Jomantas.

Columns of Gediminas, are conspicuously absent! This certainly was inappropriate for the country's two most important banknotes! Apparently, artist Jomantas (1891-1960) failed to capture national consciousness in these designs and thus they were rejected. The Bank of Lithuania was only able to salvage the 1,000 litu obverse design and use it on the obverse of the circulation 500 litu, printed in England. On that, a Columns of Gediminas watermark was added. Artist Adomas Galdikas was chosen to design the circulation 1,000 litu.

The discovery of these two new notes might cause cataloging problems. We suggest assigning them the numbers 21A (500 litu) and 22A (1,000 litu) instead of renumbering all later notes. These are definitely according to the "second issue." The Fick book lists incorrectly the circulation P-21 & 22 500 and 1,000 litu notes as part of the second issue, but in reality they start the third issue (printed in England.).

We are making arrangements for LNA members to obtain color photographs of these new notes to add to their collection. Details will be announced in the next issue of The Knight. Remember, you read about these notes first in The Knight! Special thanks to member Charles Matuzas for supplying us with the illustrations.

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NEW ADVERTISING RATES to commercial dealers (non-commercial LNA members can place ads in free): Business card insertion: \$5 each issue, or 6 for \$25 (save \$5). 1/4 page: \$10; 1/2 page \$20; 3/4 page \$25, 1 page \$30. Advertising insertion same as 1 page. Additional pages \$20 each.

This is the first two pages of an 8-page issue. Write for a full complimentary copy and membership application.

4-GRAŠIS COINAGE

4-Grašis or "ketvirtokai" (Polish: czworaki)

Diameter: 24-25 mm.

Weight: 4.29 gr. Silver content: 0.875

Mint: Vilnius

Gumowski numbers: G-624 regular, G-625 for special 1568 die.

Hutten-Czapski numbers: 1565: 536, 10114/536a, 537, 7165/537a. 1566: 542, 4964/542a, 543. 1567: 553, 554, 7169/554a, 555, 4965/555a. 1568: 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 4967/560a, 4968/563a; (special die) 565. 1569: 568, 569, 570, 571.

The 4-Grašis coins minted by the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in Vilnius from 1565 to 1569 make a good "starter" set for those wishing to collect medieval Lithuanian coins. A complete date set is relatively easy to assemble and there are no rare dates in the series. The only rare coin is a very special type used on some dated 1568, easily identifiable by its more elegant design, and the crown on the reverse is raised into the legend area.

OBVERSE: In the center is a bust of Grand Duke Sigismund August, who served from 1544 to 1572. (b. Cracow 1 Aug 1520, d. Knyszyn near Lake Nereslis 7 July 1572) SA was the last ruler of the "Gediminas dynasty," and under him was consummated the infamous Union of Lublin (1569). Coins minted under SA were the last following the superior Lithuanian coin standard. 20% "better" than the Polish, 4 Lith. grašis equalled 5 Polish grosz. SA is shown with a long beard, and hence these coins were known as "little beards." They were used as models for Silesia's King Vaclovas III 4 groschen of 1572 & 1574, and for Italy's 1/8 "scudo" of A.M. Tizzone in Piedmont at the beginning of the 17th century.

The circular abbreviated Latin inscription states: "SIGIS AVG D G REX PO MAG DUX LI," meaning, "Sigismund August, By the Grace of God, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania." However, numerous dies were used, and hence there will be variances in the legends' completeness, depending on how many letters the die maker could fit in at that particular time. In general, these type of differences "don't count" when determining value, as no two coin dies were alike.

Count Emeric Hutten-Czapski cataloged his collection according to these aforementioned legend differences. Thus, if you have a coin whose inscription exactly matches Czapski's, (and this does happen), you can identify it with an HCz number. Otherwise, Gumowski numbers are usually used for cataloging purposes.

REVERSE: The abbreviated Latin inscription reads: "MONETA MAGNI DVCAT LITVA," or "A Coin of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania." Notice the legend tells "whose coin" it is! Some



ABOVE: 1566 4-Grašis (enlarged photo)

catalogers list these under "Poland," when actually these were minted: 1) BEFORE the union with Poland, 2) according to the superior Lith. coin standard, 3) in Vilnius, the capital of the Grand Duchy. Would you list Canadian coins under "England" because Queen Elizabeth appears on the front? Of course not! The same argument applies here.

In the circular center is the crown of SA on top. Below in center left is the Vytis emblem, and to the right the Columns of Gediminas emblem, both enclosed in a plain line shield. At the bottom are the Roman numerals "IIII," meaning 4-Grašis.

TRENDS: When you can find them the prices are generally: VG \$15; FINE \$30; VERY FINE \$45; EXTREMELY FINE: \$75. This does not include the rare 1568 with special die version.

We hope to feature more medieval Lithuanian coins in the future, and hope that this has been an incentive to introduce you to the fascinating world of collecting early Lithuanian coins! As you may have noticed, the prices are really "OK!"

EDITORS CORNER

With this issue we conclude the Rimša memoir series. I hope you have enjoyed this exclusive feature here in The Knight. We have other Lithuanian numismatic classics translated and will be presenting them in future issues!

Be sure and read the letter by Dr. Kuškevics on page 8! Why not write the mentioned numismatic firm and World Coin News and let them know your position? It is unethical and an insult to list Baltic coins under Russia/USSR!

We're saving the Lithuanian olympic medals article by Henry L Gaidis for our June-July issue, in timing for the Los Angeles Olympics. By the way, the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 4012 Archer Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60632, has Olympic Boycott bumper stickers left over from 1980! They state: "NO FREEDOM Free Captive Nations NO OLYMPICS Great conversation pieces! They are selling them (while they last) for only \$1 each, and a SASE!

Would anyone like to think up a Lithuanian numismatic limerick? There must be someone out there!

Lt. Col. John W. Balchunis, USAF Ret., has won the best of show for his exhibit of a double set of Lithuanian coins at the 28th annual Tidewater



John W. Balchunis (left) receives Best of Show plaque from chairman Mort Ronick (right).

Coin Club Show held March 16-18 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. They were shown obverse/reverse. Included in the exhibit was a Lith. flag, a shield with the Vytis emblem, and a short history of Lithuania. Balchunis is a charter member of the LNA. Congratulations!

An excellent illustrated article on the numismatic collection at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture (charter LNA member) in Chicago, appeared in the March 14, 1984 issue of Coin world pp. 48, 49.

Richard Giedroyc has been named editor of CW International section, and he is of Lithuanian background. It was Giedroyc's letter in the March 21, 1978 issue of World Coin News which brought the editor's remark, "The rallying cry for a Lithuanian Numismatic Association?" Giedroyc visited the Balzekas Museum recently and donated some geneological information he has done. For a copy of the CW article, write: Coin world, P.O. Box 150 Sidney, Ohio 45367.

Another article about the Balzekas Museum appeared in the March 20, 1984 issue of World Coin News, p. 16. Illustrated were a 1,000 litu banknote, an Order of Vytautas the Great, and a Petras Rimša medal.

Juozas Aligrytis' letter to the editor of World Coin News February 28, 1984 issue protested the fact that the new Fick world paper money catalog specialized issues volume omitted cities notes of the Baltic countries. (i.e. Liepaja, Memel, Riga, etc.) The editor replied that only regional notes were included in the catalog, not cities. This editor's letter appeared in the March 6 issue, and suggested that next time perhaps they could be added, since he had supplied the information.

An article entitled "Coin Designer and Sculptor Juozas Zikaras," appeared in the Spring 1984 issue of The Mich-Matist, pp. 22, 25. For a copy enclose 75¢ to: Michigan State Numismatic Society, P.O. Box 191, Birmingham, MI 48012.

Next issue we will be enclosing a 12 page special entitled, "A Catalog of Early Lithuanian Coins. II. Under the Kings." This is the companion to the Part I "Under the Grand Dukes" which we presented a year ago. Be sure and renew your subscription.

Would anyone like to attempt to compile an INDEX for The Knight Volumes 1-6? We have numerous members who have every issue and this is a project that needs to be done. Let us know if you would like to help.

Make plans now to attend the American Numismatic Association convention in Detroit Michigan July 27-August 1, 1984. We will be there!!! Our LNA meeting will be held Saturday, July 28 at 10:30 AM at the Westin Hotel, La Salle B room. (all events are being held at the Hotel, a few blocks away from the Cobo Hall bourse site). LNA officials Vincent Alones and The Knight editor Frank Passic will present a slide talk, "The Works of Juozas Zikaras." In addition, Passic has been asked by the ANA to participate in the educational "Numismatic Theatre" and will be showing the Balzekas Museum slides "Banknotes of the Bank of Lithuania printed in Prague, Czechoslovakia." We have been told to expect at least 150 persons at this! MORE INFORMATION IN NEXT MONTH'S SPECIAL ANA Convention issue of The Knight!

We encourage Lithuanian numismatic competitive exhibits at the ANA convention in Detroit! Lets show them! For an exhibit application, write: Martin Delger, 323 Dawnlee Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002. They must be returned by June 29, 1984.

Have you written Karl Stephens lately? He has both modern and medieval Lithuanian coins for sale! Mention The Knight.



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DIRECTORS REPORT

By Robert J. Douchis, LNA Director.

5.

Our membership is up this year, for the second year in a row. Paid memberships now stand at 120, only 3 less than our 1st year high of 123. Of these, 51 are original charter members! 45 members this year made a contribution in excess of the membership donation for which we are very grateful.

For the benefit of our newer members who may not be aware, we are a not-for-profit volunteer association. Your basic \$10 membership donation covers only the printing and mailing cost of The Knight. Meetings held at New York, Chicago, and elsewhere are underwritten by the show sponsors and personally by the LNA host at no cost to the Association. We rely solely upon your donations to carry out the administrative and especially the research functions (photocopies, photographs, postage, etc.) which this year cost \$291. Through donations, advertising, and the sale of back issues, we conclude this membership year with a balance of \$407. Our new LNA camera, which was purchased last year, is becoming a valuable asset in helping with illustrations in The Knight.

Due to several new members requesting back issues this year, including complete sets, we are sorry to announce we can no longer routinely provide back issues. As we conclude our 6th year we are simply OUT of stock. It has gotten to the point where nearly everything now has to be photocopied. So unless you are researching a particular topic, please restrict your requests. If you are looking for particular back issues, we suggest placing a want-ad in The Knight.

GOOD NEWS: Some time back, one of our members suggested we try lowering foreign membership dues to attract more foreign members. We have been requesting an additional \$10 to cover air mail delivery overseas. With the U.S. dollar remaining strong, we have decided to waive the \$10 airmail surcharge for Volume 7! Hopefully, this will attract more foreign members. The U.S.-Canadian membership donation will remain at \$10, for the 5th year in a row!

Its membership renewal time again! You'll soon be receiving your membership renewal notice by separate mailing. We found this method the last couple of years far superior to a renewal coupon in The Knight. Also to make it easier on yours truly, I'll be enclosing your membership card with the notice.

Printed now is our LNA membership roster by name and state. We never give out addresses without your permission.

*Gift in excess of basic donation; CM-Charter Member,
+Paid in advance; I-Institutional; xxx--regular member no.

CM* Joseph Adomaitis, CT	140 Kestutis Chesonis, MD
CM Rev. Peter Alismuskis, PA	I Coin World, OH
CM Vincent W. Alones, NY	CM* George M. Daru, PA
I ANA Library, CO	CM Leonard DeLang, HI
I ANS Library, CO	189 Leonard Desanto, NY
162 John Armonas, OH	210 George K. Dillingham, NY
CM* Jonas Augustinius, IL	216 Alexander V. Dirakis, IL
CM* William S. Arthur, CA	CM* Bruce Donahue, MA
CM* Frank J. Backitis, SC	214 E.J. Downey, AUSTRALIA
CM* John W. Balchunis, VA	CM James Douchis, MA
221 Alphonse J. Balsis, NJ	CM* Robert J. Douchis, MD
CM Balzekas Museum, IL	CM* Victor Dulkis, NY
CM Dennis Bartaszkiewicz, NJ	227+ Bill Emerson, ND
CM* Edward J. Bochniak, NY	CM* J. Graham Esler, CANADA
132* Julius W. Boris, MA	129 Henry L. Gaidis, MD
CM* Madeline Bretanus, MA	125* Stan N. Gaizutis, NV
I Bridges Newsletter, NY	CM* Cassy Garelis, MICH
CM Raymond R. Budd, OH	CM John Glynn, ENGLAND
185* Michael S. Burokas, NJ	218 William T. Grasska, CA

134 Ray Hafsaas, WA
173 Thomas S. Halpin, Jr. NY
196 Edward Hartfik, MICH
149 Russel A. Hibbs, KY
122 Ruth W. Hill, MD
CM Don R. Hiltunen, MICH
156+ John G. Humphris, OH
213 Lowell Jackson, WI
199 Janis Jekabson, NE
CM Jonas K. Karys, CT
CM* Claus C. Kassel, NV
CM* Carl Kazakauskas, PA
154 Albert G. Kendrick, NY
179 Brian J. Kenny, CT
193* Algirdas Kepalas, NY
191* Sally Kirka, CT
219* Douglas W. Komer, MICH
CM Herman A. Krajewski, CT
186 Guntis Kuskevics, CA
124*+Bronislaw Lazauskas, CT
225 Tal Liepa, IA
220 Richard Lizdenis, MA
195 Aleksandrs Loja, TX
CM* Peter Leonard, PA
CM Joseph I. Lepczyk, MICH
192 Bonaventure J. Linkus, NJ
I Lith. Consulate General NY
I Lith. Legation, Wash. D.C.
224* Peter A. Manti, IL
CM* V.L.G. Matelis, FL
CM* Roland Martick, MA
CM* Frances Maslana, AZ
CM Charles Matuzas, NY
226 John B. McCaugherty, IL
202 Helen Melchior, CT
200 Juozas Mikaila, MICH
CM* Edward F. Mikutis, IL
223 K. Milukus, NY
204 Sarunas Mingela, MICH
CM Missouri Numis. Soc. MO
222 Algird S. Monstavičius CA
168 Edward S. Muszynski, MICH
209 Jerome J. Norton, NY
CM* Robert Novak, CA
CM* James Zane Olson, IL
CM* Frank Passic, MICH
170 James A. Parr, N.Y.
207 S.N. Petraitis, PA
188 Donald Pickering, NH
198 Broni Podbel, NY
CM* Edward Prunckun, DE
CM Ginger Rapsus, IL
138 Aleksandras Radzius, Jr. MD.
215 Charles A. Robbins, MS
151* Paul Rog, MN
CM Algirdas Ruzgas, NY
131 Ivan Schuster, NJ
212 Val Shilakes, MICH
203* George Schumacher, CA

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6. VOLUNT. MEDAL

(Continued from last issue)

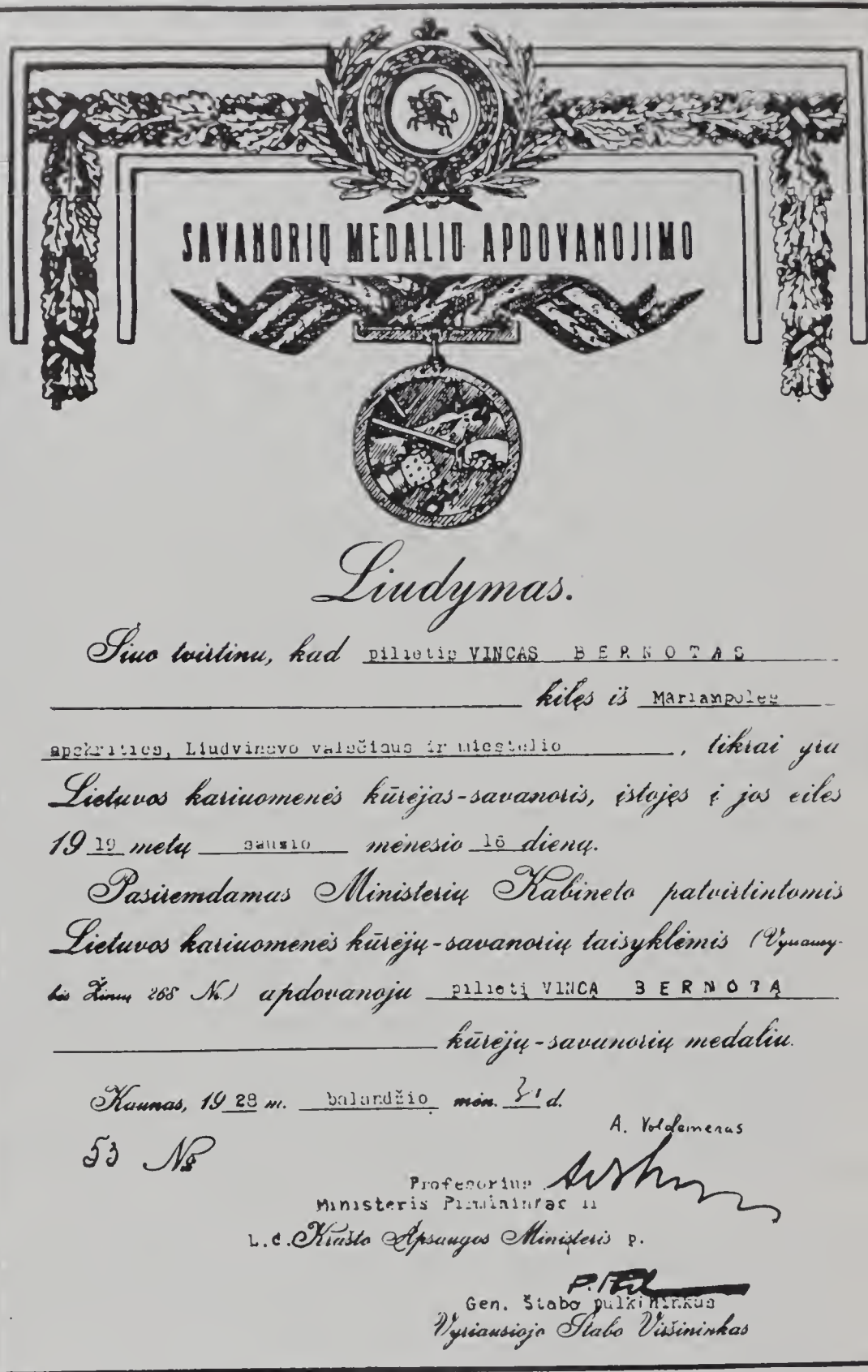
Each medal was accompanied by a numbered certificate. There were two types: the original bears the title on top while later ones do not. A translation of the certificate (at right) is as follows: "VOLUNTEERS MEDAL AWARD. Certificate. This is to certify herewith that citizen VINCAS BERNOTAS, from the district of Marijampolė, Liudvinava's County and Village, is actually truly Lithuanian army's creative volunteer, having joined its ranks January 16, 1919. In accordance with the Cabinet of Ministers acknowledge rules for Lithuania's Army creative volunteers. (Government news No. 268). Citizen Vincas Bernota is awarded the creative volunteers medal. Kaunas, April 31, 1928 No. 53 [Signed] A. Voldemaras, Professor, Prime Minister, and Temporarily in Charge, Minister of Defense; General Stabo Pulkininkas, Colonel, General Staff."

REPORT

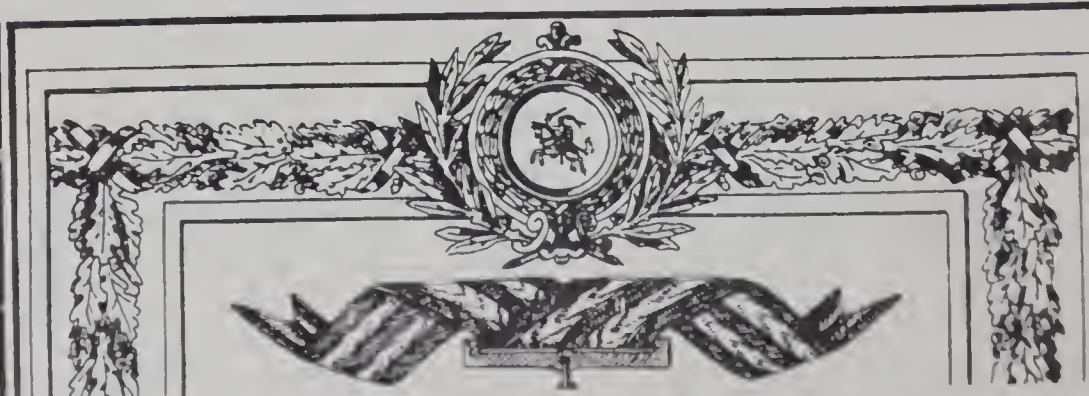
Continued from pg. 5...

CM*+ Peter Shulin, PA
211 Michael T. Shutterly, MD
126 Xavier Servais, BELGIUM
183* Adolph V. Stankus, Jr. CA
CM Mel Steinberg, CA
CM Karl Stephens, CA
197* Maxon R. Stouder, CA
CM* Algirdas Sudentas, MA
208 Gerald Swen, MD
172 Joseph Tamosuinas, CA
176* Edward G. Tamulevich, MA
187 Robert J. Thomas, MD
217 John A. Trocki, Jr. VA
206 Edmund P. Tutlys, MA
178 Arunas T. Udryas, MICH
123 J. Vabalas, CT
148* Gediminas Vaitkus, NM
194+ S. Valatka, NJ
CM Raymond Variakojis, OH
CM* William Velms, CT
CM* Paul Waichulaitis, WI
CM* James B. White, FL
205 John P. Witter, FINLAND
I World Coin News, WI
CM* Kazmier Wysocki, NJ
CM Toyo Yamamoto, OR
200 Michael Yanuskevich, NH
161 Kenneth C. Yurgil, IL
CM* Edward J. Zemaitis, NY
159 Vincent Zemaitis, NY
175 Peter Zincus, MA

If you wish to contact anyone let us know and we'll forward.



ABOVE: Original certificate. Below, top portion of 1930's certificate, without title on top.



What artist does not attempt to paint a portrait of himself? I began to ponder the matter, when I approached my 70th birthday (1951). At the end of 1950, I began the composition. It seems I was unable even here to do without two varieties. On the medal's obverse, my portrait. On both variants the countenance was the same. Only that one was with my beloved sombrero, a wide-brimmed hat, obtained in 1924 in London, with my left hand on the right shoulder. The second, a baldplate (without the hat and without the hand). [This is the one which is illustrated in articles] In this scene, on the left is shown a young boy (a student) climbing. From the other side, the boy, already grown, is shown chipping away at a bust. These were my life's stages. In the second variant, which I had poured in bronze, on the edge in an arc is inscribed, "A Composer is recognized not from his countenance, but from his creation."

On the reverse of the autoportrait is spread a view of an exhibition of my works: In front, on a pedestal stands "The Lithuanian School" (in the center), "The Ploughman," and "Kine" (at the sides). The scene on the reverse, my other creations, generally appear hanging on the walls, in exposition. My autoportrait, as some have said, is not a good resemblance of me. "I have made myself younger" I would answer the critics.

From way back, I have been worried about Adomas Mickevičius and M.K. Čiurlionis. I began putting together the first subject in 1948, when the poet's [known to Poles as Adam Bernard Mickiewicz] 150th birthday was celebrated, but only in 1959, with the technical assistance of the sculptoress D. Danytė, was it completed.

In the center of the obverse, there is the vision of Adam Mickevičius. We see the poet emerging from the background of clouds above the cathedral of Vilnius, and Gediminas' Castle, overgrown with trees. In the square before the Cathedral [in 1948 when the obverse was made, it was still known as the Cathedral, and the statues were still on top], with eyes fixed upon the poet, stands a Lithuanian girl, clothed in national costume holding an armful of flowers, and extending a nosegay. That is an expression of the Lithuanian people felicitating the poet.

On the reverse, I showed A. Mickevičius in his Kaunas days. Here we see the poet on the Aleksotas side, seated on a flowery shore of the Nemunas River, with a background of the rays of the setting sun, enjoying the impressive panorama of the city, or dreaming of the country's past. The poet has a book and notepaper in his hands. High in the field there are several excerpts from his works, as though later reflections of his dreams.

I had been all afire to create a medal to Čiurlionis. His subject I put together in 1948, at the time of the [late] artist's 75th birthday. On the obverse, I placed Čiurlionis' portrait. However, on the reverse we find a showing of the artist's creations: at the closing doors a maiden stands and looks in perspective at the "Zodiac" of Čiurlionis, hanging on a wall. On the near wall, above the doors and at the sides, there is a similar hanging of the artist's compositions.



ABOVE: Bronzed self-portrait model of Rimša. Photo taken by The Knight editor in Kaunas. Unfortunately, his aim was a little off and hence the top is chopped off! Original in so-called "Stained Glass Museum" in Kaunas.

The subject is not yet completed [and that is why no photo is available]. I wonder if I am going to find the strength to do it [and he didn't]. As I look around, I do not find the strength. Old age-- would that it disappear!

My head was full of subjects for other medals. While I did put down at least a sketch of the Čiurlionis medal, and began to model his portrait, many others still remain in my imagination, and are not yet carried out onto paper, while in other areas, only the themes were considered. So did episodes of World War II obsess me. Let us take the fate of the lost East Prussians. These in particular interested me, for they were close to my own birthplace, where I continued to hear the terrifying shouts of the German Junkers [but not the Russian Communists...]

The lost East Prussians, the victims of age-old German imperialism, targeted toward the east, and first of all, at the Lithuanians. But during the course of WWII, their sting was cut off. Their fate overcame me with all its viciousness, and revived in me the terrible reality of life of the Lithuanian blood [!]. Western Lithuanians from the lower part of the Visla to the Nemunas River were subject to Teutonic aggression for 700 years, were so mauled and nearly exterminated. The picture is dark indeed, darker than the grove of Anykščiai. (A Lithuanian nightmare, Anykščiai Šilėlis). THE END. This series is now concluded!

8.

LETTERS.....LETTERS.....LETTERS.....LETTERS.....

The recent letter to World Coin News [right] March 13, 1984 issue, certainly would be worth reprinting in The Knight. Of the Baltic States, only Lithuanians are mentioned and the rest of us are lumped under "aging Balts." I am sure, this letter would deserve replies in WCN [Krause Publications, Iola, #1 54990], and probably to Kevin Akin, since some of the so-called "aging Balts" have his address. If he is a coin dealer, the Balts should refuse to deal with him. Another item along the same line is the advertisement [left] in WCN, Feb. 14

SJ-NUMIS

P.O. Box 18910
San Jose, CA 95158
(408) 629-9565

USSR (LATVIA)
Y-3, 5 San 1922 VF w/o signature12.00
USSR
(LITHUANIA)
Y-13, 10 Litu 1936 BU65.00

issue. This appears several years after Krause publications "annexed" the Baltic States into the USSR in their Standard Catalog of World

Coins. To my knowledge, this is the first dealer to follow suit. It is S-J NUMIS, of San Jose, CA, who thus would be with Kevin Akin on top of any Baltic dealer boycott list.---Dr. Guntis Kuškevics, CA. _

I read with great interest the article by Dr. Stahl in the Feb-Mar. issue. It shows he has studied assiduously the ANS medieval Lith. coin collection. He pointed out two completely different coins, struck by Sig. August in the same year and denomination (3-Grašis 1562) which I had overlooked. Regarding his history comments, it is possible to connect Stephan Batory to the Jogaila dynasty through his wife Anna, daughter of Sigismund the Elder. Also, Sigismund Vasa of Sweden was connected through Catherine, another daughter of Sig. the Elder, and Bona Sforza. The article broadens our knowledge of our specialty to be able to read of it from a different viewpoint than that of Karys.--Val Matelis, FL.

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DeKalb, Mississippi
39328
(601) 677-3550

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(paid advertisement)

Changing Standard Catalog entries

Several years ago I sent a long letter of suggestions and criticism to the editors of the Standard Catalog of World Coins and was astonished to receive a friendly reply. A bit later, when the new SCWC came out, I was even more astonished to find that almost all of my suggestions were incorporated into the text.

No doubt many of the suggestions had also come from other collectors.

One of my suggestions, placing the Baltic States listings under the USSR, caused a bit of trouble. When I later wrote a letter in World Coin News defending the new arrangement, some aging Balts in the U.S. took the trouble to look up my address and send abusive letters.

I even got a phone call from an elderly Lithuanian in Chicago who called me a Communist, a homosexual and some other things. (Can one be all these things simultaneously?)

The catalog's editors obviously must have been on the receiving end of a lot more harassment than that. Despite the bother, I was very pleased at having contributed in a small way toward improving the catalog.

Kevin Akin

Riverside, Calif.

As a general world-coin dealer for several years, I have accumulated a large stock, mostly silver, which I would like to mail-bid. If you are interested in receiving these lists on coins other than Baltic States and Philippine, please drop me a card. I am buying all Baltic States and pre-1944 Philippine. I am especially interested in Phil. countermarks and Lithuania. On the list below, the number in parentheses is the total no. of each coin, in all grades, I have in stock. If I have fewer than 5, I am interested in all grades. More than 5, EF or better, although I will buy strict VF. All coins below are carefully, accurately graded and described. Thank you and good luck. Charles A. Robbins--LNA, ANA, SIN, etc.

Lithuania: Y1, Centas, 1925 (2) VF (trn's) \$5; CH EF \$19
Y9, Centas, 1936 (2) VF \$5; EF \$6
Y10, 2 Centai, 1936 (3), VG (rn's) \$1; VF (dipped) \$3; EF \$11
Y2, 5 Centai, 1925 (5) F \$2; VF (spots, corr.) 2; VF \$5; CH VF (uneven toning) \$7; CH VF \$9
Y11, 5 Centai, 1936 (2) Nice F \$3; CH VF \$9
Y4, 20 Centu, 1925 (5) F \$3; Nice F \$5; VF \$10; CH VF \$14
Y5, 50 Centu, 1925 (3) VG \$3; Nice F \$9
Y6, Litas, 1925, (6) F \$5; VF \$8; Clnd EF \$10
Y7, 2 Litu, 1925 (8) F \$8; Nice F \$12; VF \$18; CH VF \$22
Y8, 5 Litai, 1925 (11) Nice F \$12; VF \$18; CH VF \$22; EF (rb) \$25; EF \$29
oops! Y3, 10 Centu, 1925 (1) VF \$9
Y12, 5 Litai, 1936 (16) VF (nks) \$6; VF \$8; CH VF (nks) \$8; EF obv scrs \$11; EF tiny hlms \$13; CH EF \$18 (CH VF \$9)
Y13, 10 Litu 1936 (12) CH VF (dig, rb) \$10; VF \$20; CH VF \$25; EF \$30
CH EF \$40
Y14, 10 Litu, 1936 (1) EF (rev scrs & porous spot) \$35